

AMENDMENT OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A soft capsule shell composition comprising:

(a) a high acyl gellan gum having more than 40% acetyl and more than 45% glyceryl residual substituents per repeat unit ;

(b) a low acyl gellan gum having less than 25% acetyl and less than 15% glyceryl residual substituents per repeat unit;

(c) a starch; and

(d) a plasticizer.

2. (canceled) .

3. (canceled)

4. (currently amended) The ~~composition capsule~~ of claim 1, wherein the high acyl gellan gum is present in an amount of from about 0.3 to about 5.0% and the low acyl gellan gum is present in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 4% by weight of the composition on a wet basis.

5. (canceled)

6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) The capsule composition of claim 1, wherein the ratio of high acyl gellan to low acyl gellan is from about 0.25:1.0 to about 30.0:1.0.

8. (canceled)

9. (currently amended) The capsule composition of claim 1, wherein the starch is an amylose containing starch.

10. (currently amended) The capsule composition of claim 9, wherein the starch is a stabilized starch.

11. (currently amended) The capsule composition of claim 10, wherein the starch is selected from the group consisting of a hydroxypropylated starch, a hydroxyethylated starch, an acetylated starch, and mixtures thereof.

12. (canceled)

13. (currently amended) The capsule of claim 4, ~~The composition of claim 1~~, wherein the starch is a dextrinized starch.

14. (currently amended) The capsule of claim 4, ~~The composition of claim 1~~, wherein the starch is present in an amount of from about 15% to about 40%, by weight of the composition on a wet film basis.

15. (currently amended) The capsule of claim 7, ~~The composition of claim 8~~, wherein the starch is present in an amount of from about 15% to about 40%, by weight of the composition on a wet film basis.

16. (currently amended) The capsule of claim 11, ~~The composition of claim 11~~, wherein the starch is present in an amount of from about 15% to about 40%, by weight of the composition on a wet film basis.

17. (currently amended) The capsule ~~The composition~~ of claim 1, wherein the plasticizer is glycerin and is present in an amount of from about 30 to 80% by weight of the starch.

18. (currently amended) The capsule of claim 4, ~~The composition of claim 8~~, wherein the plasticizer is glycerin and is present in an amount of from about 30 to 80% by weight of the starch.

19. (currently amended) The capsule of claim 7, ~~The composition of claim 11~~, wherein the plasticizer is glycerin and is present in an amount of from about 30 to 80% by weight of the starch.

20. (currently amended) The capsule ~~The composition of claim 1~~, further comprising hydrophilic or surface hydrophilically modified colloidal particles.

21. (currently amended) The capsule of claim 4, ~~The composition of claim 8~~, further comprising hydrophilic or surface hydrophilically modified colloidal particles.

22. (currently amended) The capsule of claim 7, ~~The composition of claim 11~~, further comprising hydrophilic or surface hydrophilically modified colloidal particles.

23. (canceled)

24. (currently amended) The A capsule shell of claim 4 comprising

(a) a high acyl gelling gum;

(b) a low acyl gelling gum;

(c) a starch; and

(d) a plasticizer,

wherein the high acyl gellan gum is present in an amount of from about 0.3 to about 5% by weight of the composition on a wet basis and the low acyl gellan gum is present in an amount of from about 0.1 to about 4% by weight of the composition on a wet basis and wherein the ratio of high acyl gellan to low acyl gellan is from about 0.25:1.0 to about 30.0:1.0.

25. (currently amended) The A capsule shell of claim 24 comprising

~~(a) a high acyl gellan gum;~~

~~(b) a low acyl gellan gum;~~

~~(c) a starch; and~~

~~(d) a plasticizer~~

wherein the starch is a stabilized amylose containing starch selected from the group consisting of a hydroxypropylated starch, a hydroxyethylated starch, an acetylated starch, and mixtures thereof.

26. (new) The capsule shell of claim 1 wherein the starch has a water fluidity of from about 20 to 90.